

## March 10, 2021 Board Update

### Animal Industry Division



---

#### Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
  - Dalton Smith, NDA Elko AEO I staff member, is completing the final phases of the field training program with NDA's certified Field Training Officers. Filling of the Ely AEO II position has been placed on hold through FY23 due to general fund budget reductions related to COVID-19.
- Partnership activities
  - USDA Wildlife Services
    - NDA and USDA Wildlife Services continue working jointly in performing wildlife damage management operations.
  - USDA/APHIS
    - NDA staff continue working in conjunction with USDA/APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
    - 2020 second quarter updates were completed and submitted to USDA/APHIS. NDA staff are currently preparing and submitting 2021 USDA/APHIS cooperative agreement applications.
  - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
    - NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2020 for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. Monthly calls to date total: October 97, November 74, December, 85. These numbers represent 538 calls addressed during FY21.
  - American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
    - NDA and AWHC second-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement is valid through May 1, 2021. NDA continues to receive monthly reporting from AWHC covering the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reporting shows that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 849 individual mares with 869 doses (184 doses given as a primer and 690 doses as a booster) for FY21. The AWHC database has been updated to include 4,611 individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range area.

#### Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
  - This program has 305 registered and active accounts for FY21.
- Livestock Enforcement
  - NDA's four law enforcement officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY21: 46 new livestock investigations, 54 follow up investigations; 2 animal health investigations; 3 animals quarantined; 1 vehicle crash; 1 vehicle vs livestock crash; 172 traffic stops; 61 warnings issued (29 livestock/brand and 32 animal health); 6 citations issued (5 livestock/brand and 1 animal health); 1,099 phone calls; 620 administrative hours; 4 vehicle livestock

check sites; 20 strays; 16 estrays; 175 brand inspections; 47 transit inspections; 379.5 training hours; 10 VRE responses; 10 livestock in roadway responses; 10 livestock highway kills (1 horse and 9 cattle); 33 agency assists.

- Livestock Identification
  - Staff have completed 10,172 brand inspections for 349,503 total animals, including the public livestock auctions.
  - Brand inspection staff have worked 9,539 hours and traveled 201,480 miles performing inspections.
  - Division staff renewed 218 brands; approved 106 new brand applications (60 pending) and transferred 64 brands.
  - Staff received a total of 2,623 livestock assessment filings for 2020.
  - Currently, 1,777 2020 livestock assessment filings are unpaid.
  - Staff have received 2,852 livestock assessment filings since 7/1/2020 (181 late assessments for 2019, 26 late assessments for 2018 and 22 late assessments for 2017).
  - Mailed 241 Livestock Movement Permit applications for 2021. 124 have been returned for processing and a total of 1,803 permits have been issued.
  - The division has issued 195 agriculture licenses for FY21.
  - The Sparks office and staff have received more than 263 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses since July 1, 2020.
  - Program staff held a workshop for proposed changes to NAC 564 and NAC 565 language.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control
  - 2021 annual PARC Committee meeting was held on February 18, 2021.
  - PARC employees have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state throughout FY21. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the year includes coyotes 60%, ravens 38%, with the remaining 2% including feral swine, lions, striped skunks, badgers and bobcats.
  - Employees provided public outreach to 1,471 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2020. 10 samples were taken from predatory animals during this time.
  - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 12 calves; 67 chickens; 12 ducks; 12 turkeys; 2 goats; 260 sheep (adults and lambs) and 10 acres of alfalfa. Additionally, 7 companion/hobby animals were killed during this period.
- Veterinary Medical Services
  - Pooled PCR testing for Trichomoniasis was launched on December 2, 2020, including accepting pooled PCR results as an official test for importation/interstate commerce.
  - The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 4,913 procedures totaling 21,636 tests or services since the start of FY21.
  - The Elko Biologist position remains on hold due to budget reduction related to COVID-19 through FY23. Until this position is filled, the Elko laboratory will remain closed.
  - In November, the ADL successfully performed and passed an inspection by the USDA related to Equine Infectious Anemia testing.

- ADL’s Supervisor virtually attended the Pacific Southwest Vector-Borne Diseases/Center of Excellence annual conference on February 17-18. She presented an update on arboviral testing in Nevada.
- Investigations involving Trichomoniasis infected and exposed herds continues.
- Quarterly swine scrap feeding inspections, including license renewal, continue.
- RHDV2 investigation and monitoring continues with the addition of 2 new affected Nevada counties. Cooperation with USDA/APHIS is ongoing, including importation of vaccines. The NDA website was updated to reflect new detections and reiterate management recommendations.
- State Veterinarian continues work with One Health partners and Nevada veterinarians regarding CDC SARS-CoV-2 recommendations.
- RFID 840 and OCV tags continue to be issued by the NDA, in coordination with USDA/APHIS to support Nevada’s ADT plan.
- State Veterinarian continues to work in conjunction with local law enforcement and animal control authorities, industry partners, and USDA/APHIS on animal investigations, including disease investigations involving livestock and public health.
- Investigations into illegal animal imports continue, in cooperation with other State Animal Health Officials.
- The NDA animal importation requirements webpage was updated to reflect changes in relation to animal disease and to improve compliance.
- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
  - In September, two additional personnel from the Animal Disease Laboratory passed the Grade “A” Dairy 2020 FDA Raw Milk Proficiency Program, which will support the department with backup and additional resources. This proficiency program is divided into two sections and staff participated in the second part in February.
  - NDA was awarded \$22,449.64 for the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Milk and Shellfish Grant funding for 2021 to cover training costs for the Dairy inspectors and laboratory staff.
  - NDA distributed and graded the 2020 Appendix N Proficiency Test for all Grade “A” Dairy sites. All sites were successful.
  - All inspection frequency requirements were met for the Dairy, Meat and Poultry programs. Milk and water samples were collected and exceeded minimum frequency requirements.
  - Inspection staff conducted 39 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections and 90 dairy farm inspections for FY21.
  - Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 12 equipment tests were conducted this quarter. 48 total equipment tests have been conducted for FY21.
  - 38 warning and compliance notifications were issued for FY21.
  - 7 complaints have been received and investigated in FY21.
  - Meat and Poultry program inspectors conducted 19 facility inspections. 1 new facility was permitted in FY21.
  - Inspection staff have collected 550 milk samples and 107 water samples.
  - Inspection staff have collected 500 brucellosis samples.
  - Inspection staff evaluated 24 milk plant samplers and 29 bulk milk

hauler sampler/weighers in FY21.

- Inspection staff conducted 3 farm ratings, 6 single service ratings and 3 lab evaluations in FY21.
- Dairy Lab participated in FDA Proficiency Testing.
- Program staff held a workshop for proposed changes to NAC 583 language.
- Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 1,015 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
- Audit staff have completed 36 investigative, remittance and close out audits to date for FY21.
- Annual distribution licensing renewals continue to be processed.
- Auditors continue to identify unregistered distributors importing regulated dairy products into Nevada.

### **Industry Impact**

- CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant impacts and funding redirection due to COVID-19. Power Point presentation by ADL Supervisor, Laura Morrow.
  - The laboratory will have limited funds to cover West Nile Virus testing through July 2021.
  - ELC will advise if any additional funds become available. The current grant awarded in November 2020 only covers a small portion of in-state travel.
  - ELC allowed the ADL to rollover left over funds from the 2019.
  - Funding will not cover all reagent costs for next year and the NDA will most likely charge a pool fee in the future.